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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 20 | Humidity 91% Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 80,543 | Nifty 24,574 | Gold 1,02,330 | Silver 1,16,000 | Dollar 87.73 | Euro 102.01 | GBP 116.69

Back-to-back thefts expose growing insider threat in city's jewellery trade; businessmen wary as recovery rate remains low even as number of cases climbs higher

THE GOLD DIGGERS

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In what appears to be a worrying trend in the city's jewellery trade, two major cases of gold theft, reported on consecutive days under the same police station limits, have raised alarm among shop owners about a growing pattern of betrayal by trusted insiders.

In both cases, individuals who had earned the trust of jewellery businesses, either as employees or long-time associates, allegedly disappeared with gold ornaments worth over ₹1.4 crore each. The cases, registered at Halasuru gate police station, are now under investigation for criminal breach of trust and cheating.

In the first incident, a jewellery

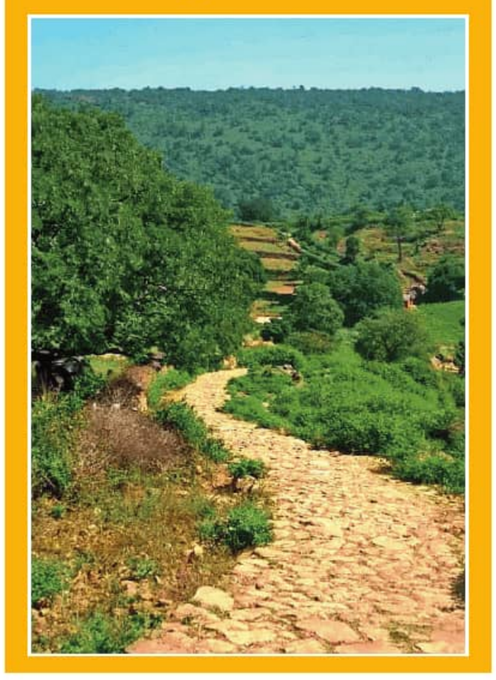
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

"Traders are following every protocol the police recommend such as keeping ID records, installing CCTV, taking insurance, but when crimes occur, the burden falls on traders
— TA Sharavana, Karnataka Jewellery Shop Association

CITY / PAGE 6

ONE SOLUTION

MM Hills should be notified as a tiger reserve for better protection of wildlife, recommends authority in report on 5 tiger deaths



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THINGS TO DO

01 Artisanal heritage

The Indian Artisans' Haat, jointly organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, is bringing handlooms, textiles, jewellery, and decorative items from across India, presenting diverse cultural and artisanal heritage under one roof. **Where: Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road; When: Until August 10**

02 Eco echo

Shades of Green is presenting 'Songs of Nature', a special curation of lighting designs by Oorjaa, a conscious design studio renowned for transforming natural waste into luminous works of art. The immersive showcase highlights iconic pieces alongside a new collection inspired by the quiet intelligence of the natural world. **Where: Sabha, Kamaraj Road; When: August 8 to 13, 11 am to 7 pm**

03 Soulful symphony

Vineeth Srinivasan will be performing his most loved hits live with his band, as part of Vineeth Sreenivasan Reloaded 2.0 Tour, promising a night of rhythm, and musical magic. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: August 23, 6 pm**

04 Digital adventure

Nexus Shantiniketan Mall is presenting 'Thrillscape', the ultimate immersive digital adventure zone, crafted with next-gen technologies blurring the line between reality and the digital realm to offer a futuristic entertainment experience. **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall; When: Until August 31, 12 pm to 9 pm**

05 Helpful hands

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, a 2-day RCI-CRE approved hands-on workshop is being held to provide hands-on training in evidence-based clinical practices for aphasia rehabilitation. **Where: The United Theological College, Benson Town; When: August 8 and 9**

A year later, BDA rectifies OC stance

BDA issues circular in line with High Court's ruling deeming mandatory EWS reservation for issuance of OCs in private properties as unconstitutional

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has finally issued a circular on rectified occupancy certificates, offering long-awaited relief to home buyers. For years, many faced hurdles in obtaining occupancy certificates due to the requirement of reserving 10 per cent of flats for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). This norm was challenged, and the High Court declared the original BDA circular issued on November 8, 2010, unconstitutional. Although the court disposed of the petition on August 7, 2024, the BDA took nearly a year to respond, releasing the revised circular only recently.

The High Court order stated that under Article 300A of the Indian Constitution, no person can be deprived of their property, and any law that enables the State to acquire property must be just, fair, and reasonable. It noted that when the State acquires someone's property, it must provide fair compensation to them. "The circular has the effect of depriving the owner from realising the full potential of its property without any benefits being granted to him. Under the said circumstance, circular has to be considered as violation of Article 300A of the Constitution of India. For the same reason, this Court in WP No 9800/2015 has struck down the subsequent notification. The impugned circular is also liable to be set aside," the High Court order read.

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA)'s circular on rectified occupancy certificates offers long-awaited relief to home buyers

Bangalore Mirror published a story 'Room with a skew' on March 9, 2023, narrating how BDA was accused of issuing occupancy certificates to flats constructed for Economically Weaker Sections, later sold by builders to the general public for prices on par with regular apartments.

Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Convenor says although OCs mentioned 10 per cent of flats were reserved for EWS, these were often non-existent, with the scam coming to end due to HC's intervention

Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, Convenor of Karnataka Home Buyers Forum, stated that the reservation of flats for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) was one of the most pressing issues faced by home buyers in Karnataka. He said that although occupancy certificates and approved project plans consistently mentioned that 10 per cent of the flats were reserved for EWS, in practice, these units were often non-existent. He noted that the issue was brought to the attention of Karnataka Lokayukta in 2023. "The BDA issued a notice to the promoters for violating the approved plan. One of the listed promoters approached the High Court," he said. He highlighted that the court declared that mandating EWS reservation in private properties is unconstitutional and instructed BDA to correct the OC. "The EWS flat reservation scam came to an end with the intervention of Lokayukta, High Court. After repeated requests from promoters and home buyers, the BDA corrected the OC for Sobha Arena apartment on July 19, 2025," he said.

Health Department announces transfer schedule for 2026

The Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Department has released the schedule for staff transfers for the year 2026. As per the notification, District Health and Family Welfare Officers must collect details of eligible staff who have completed the minimum service period and submit the information to the commissioner's office by January 1, 2026. A provisional list will be published on January 15, and objections can be submitted until January 31.

Special category transfer requests must be submitted by January 1, with the provisional list out on January 31, and objections accepted until February 15. For other staff members, the provisional list will be out by March 1, and objections will be accepted until March 15. **— BMB**

BBMP urges citizens to go green this Ganesha Festival

To promote eco-conscious celebrations, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has urged Bengalureans to opt for eco-friendly Ganesha idols and warned of strict action against the use of Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols, which remain banned in city limits. Chairing a preparatory meeting at the IPP Centre in Malleshwaram, he directed officials to intensify public awareness campaigns and crack down on illegal PoP idol manufacturing. Over 40 lakes and designated immersion tanks will be readied for idol immersion, with safety and sanitation measures including barricades, trained swimmers, lighting, cranes, CCTV surveillance, and police deployment. **— BMB**

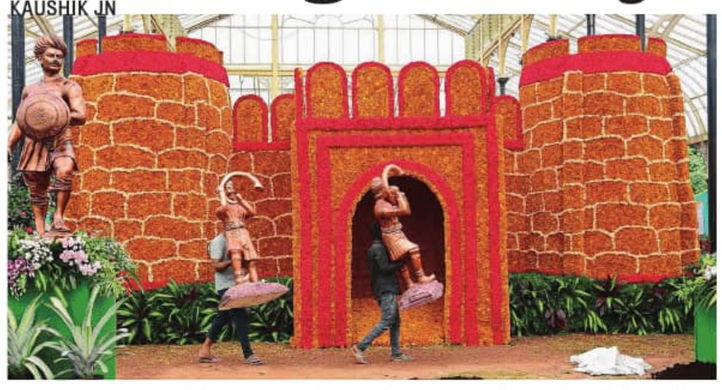
Schools urged to prioritise students' mental health

In recent years, Karnataka has witnessed a disturbing rise in child suicides, abuse cases, and mental health issues amongst students. Experts stress that timely emotional counselling and mental health support within schools is no longer optional but essential. Amidst growing concern, there is a strong demand for the government to appoint trained mental health professionals across schools to help children navigate emotional distress and develop life skills.

The State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has already written to the government recommending the appointment of psychologists, especially in high-enrolment schools like KPS, before expanding to all institutions. The rapid physical and emotional changes during adolescence, compounded by academic pressure and abuse, are taking a serious toll on children's mental well-being. Supporting this, the Supreme Court has also issued guidelines urging educational institutions to have counsellors in proportion to student strength, ensure proper mental health training for staff, avoid academic discrimination based on performance, and prominently display mental health policies. Dr KT Thippeswamy, a member of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, emphasised that the current education system focuses narrowly on grades and exacerbates mental stress, making the appointment of counsellors in educational institutions an urgent priority. **— BMB**

Lalbagh Flower Show to begin today

KAUSHIK JN



The 218th edition of the iconic Lalbagh Flower Show will begin on August 7 in Bengaluru, celebrating the valour of freedom fighters Kittur Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the 12-day floral festival at 10 am in the Glass House, in the presence of Deputy CM DK Shivakumar and ministers SS Mallikarjun and Ramalinga Reddy. The event is being organised at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore, and features elaborate floral replicas of Rani Chennamma's memorial, Sangolli Rayanna on horseback, the Kittur Fort, and a vertical garden. Around 5.8 lakh flowers, including over 50,000 roses, 2.4 lakh chrysanthemums, and 24,000 foliage plants, will be used in two phases of decoration. Indo-American Hybrid Seeds has contributed special floral arrangements and statues. A total of 1.75 lakh ornamental plants will be on display. Online ticket booking is available via https://hasiru.karnataka.gov.in/floweshow/login.aspx, with QR code entry enabled. Ticket prices are Rs 80 for adults and Rs 30 for children on weekdays, and Rs 100 for adults on weekends and holidays. Uniformed school children (Classes 1–10) will be granted free entry. **— BMB**

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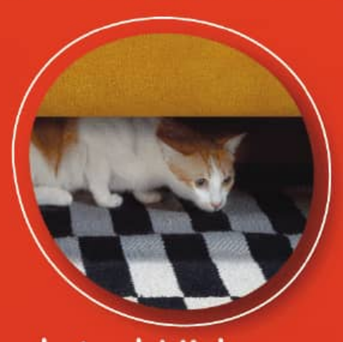

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Metro loses Hebbal land battle, gains just 9 acres

Original depot plans dropped after overlapping infrastructure concerns; BMRCL's revised proposal approved for a modest but key integration facility in Hebbal

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

In a significant compromise, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) will now have to settle for just 9 acres of land at Hebbal—far less than its original request for 45 acres—for the proposed multi-modal integration (MMI) facility. The decision was taken by the High-Powered Committee (HPC), chaired by Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh. A copy of the proceedings accessed by Bangalore Mirror sheds light on the rationale behind this drastic scale-down.

Initially, BMRCL had requested 45 acres and 5.5 guntas of land from the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) at Hebbal to construct a full-fledged stabling depot for the upcoming Phase-3A corridor, along with multi-level parking and seamless integration of Metro, suburban rail, BMTC, KSRTC, and road networks.

However, with multiple projects — including BBMP's proposed underground road tunnel between Esteem Mall and Silk Board — clashing with BMRCL's vision for Hebbal, the project had to be drastically reimagined. The proposed tunnel's entry and exit ramps, launching shafts for Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), and other structural components will occupy key portions of the same land initially earmarked for the Metro depot.

Revised Metro plan makes room for buses, trains, skywalks

In a presentation before the HPC, BMRCL's Managing Director explained that due to these constraints, setting up a stabling depot at Hebbal was no longer feasible. The presence of existing and proposed infrastructure, legal complexities under the SUC (Single Unit Complex) scheme, and anticipated litigation further forced BMRCL to revise its land requirement.

Following a review of actual requirements and available space, BMRCL scaled down its request to just 9 acres—adequate to host essential MMI facilities, including a parking structure, BMTC/KSRTC bus terminal, skywalks, and integration points with Metro Phases 2B, 3, 3A, suburban rail, and Indian Railways.

The HPC acknowledged that the initial 45-acre proposal could not be pursued due to procedural and legal challenges. It emphasised the need to utilise the available land at Hebbal wisely in order to serve the larger public interest. The committee also noted that KIADB must comply with the zoning regulations of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and the building bye-laws of BBMP when transferring the land.

Ultimately, the committee approved the free-of-cost transfer of the 9-acre parcel from KIADB to BMRCL,

> **"Integrating multiple transit modes in a compact urban setting is challenging, but it's better than losing the opportunity altogether**
> – Transport infrastructure expert

stating that the move would greatly improve commuter convenience at one of the city's key transit hubs. The Commerce and Industries Department has been instructed to fast-track the required formalities and report compliance during the next HPC meeting. While BMRCL may have had to abandon its ambitious plans for a major infrastructure footprint at Hebbal, the 9-acre allocation is expected to pave the way for essential commuter amenities, streamlining multi-modal travel in North Bengaluru — albeit on a smaller scale than originally envisioned.

State rolls out 'Bhoo Suraksha' initiative

In a major step toward streamlining land record access, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Tuesday launched the 'Bhoo Suraksha' initiative at the Bengaluru Urban District Administration Office. The project aims to digitise all land documents across the state, ensuring easy access for citizens while eliminating the role of middlemen and reducing the chances of prolonged legal disputes. The minister stated that over 100 crore pages of land records are estimated across various taluk offices, of which 35.36 crore pages have already been scanned. The digitisation process also includes documents maintained at the Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner offices.

The government has set a target to complete scanning of taluk-level records by December 2025 and AC-level records by March 2026. The initiative will preserve both pre- and post-independence records, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and public convenience. — BMB

Excess land, delays put NICE in trouble

The Karnataka government is seriously considering taking over the controversial Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project, executed by Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE). A Cabinet sub-committee formed to assess the project's progress and future course convened on Monday to deliberate the issue.

Discussions focused on whether NICE should be allowed to complete the expressway or if the state should reclaim and finish it independently. Concerns were raised over NICE developing interchanges and layouts not stipulated in the original agreement and the need to compensate farmers who lost land.

The committee also debated recovering excess government and private land granted to NICE—reportedly 23,846 acres were allotted against a requirement of just 13,237 acres. Despite nearing the end of a 30-year lease period, the project remains incomplete, with NICE failing to provide the promised infrastructure. Legal and procedural steps to terminate the agreement and transfer the toll road and associated infrastructure to the government are now under consideration. — BMB

MLA assures April deadline for flyover

Yelahanka MLA S R Vishwanath announced that the long-pending Yelahanka flyover construction will be completed by April. Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for road widening and connectivity projects across 12 villages in the constituency, undertaken at a cost of ₹30 crore by the PWD, he addressed the delay in the flyover and underpass works. He explained that due to heavy daytime traffic, construction couldn't progress swiftly, and while it may miss the December deadline, it will be completed by April.

Regarding the underpass connecting old Yelahanka, Vishwanath said land has been leased from the Yelahanka Railway Coach Factory for 35 years. BBMP will pay ₹1.35 crore in compensation, with the process expected to be completed within two weeks, following which construction work will officially commence. — BMB

Centre releases ₹46,933 cr

The Union Government has released ₹46,933 crore to Karnataka as its share of central taxes and duties for the financial year 2024-25, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed the Rajya Sabha. Responding in writing to a question raised by BJP MP Iranna Kadadi, the minister said Karnataka had received ₹34,596 crore in 2022-23 and ₹41,193 crore in 2023-24. In addition, over the past three years, the Centre has released ₹5,426 crore for local bodies, ₹3,532 crore for disaster management, and ₹6,826 crore for the health sector as part of additional central allocations. — BMB

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Pedestrian hazard
Davis Road

A sunken and damaged tile near the boundary wall of an apartment close to the Davis Road traffic junction poses a hazard to pedestrians. Prompt repairs are essential to prevent accidents.

Waste zone
Konanakunte

Garbage has piled up near the glass factory site at Harinagar Cross, Konanakunte, turning the area into an eyesore. Immediate BBMP intervention is required to clear the mess.

Drain stench
Kalasipalyam

A clogged stormwater drain filled with garbage on Mariswamymutt Road, Kalasipalyam, has created an unbearable stench. Despite collecting crores in taxes, BBMP and BWSSB remain apathetic, forcing residents to endure inhuman living conditions.

DKS' Hebbal ride sparks helmet row

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's promotional bike ride on the newly completed Hebbal flyover loop on Tuesday has drawn criticism after social media users flagged multiple traffic violations linked to the two-wheeler he was riding. The scooter, bearing registration number KA 04 JZ 2087, reportedly has over 34 pending traffic fines amounting to ₹18,500, according to traffic police records.

The incident gained traction after the JD(S) party took to X (formerly Twitter) to highlight the violations. They tagged the Hebbal Traffic Police, urging immediate action and calling on the minister to "fulfil ministerial responsibilities instead of focusing on publicity reels."

The bike ride, intended as a promotional event ahead of the flyover's public opening, quickly turned into an embarrassment. Observers on social media also questioned the minister's helmet, noting that it appeared to be a substandard half-face model, possibly lacking the mandatory Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification.

DK Shivakumar took a scooter for a spin on the Hebbal flyover loop on Tuesday

The incident sparked a wider conversation online, with many netizens urging public officials to lead by example when it comes to road safety and compliance with traffic norms. There has been no official statement from Shivakumar, and traffic officials claimed they were unaware of the violations.

While the Hebbal flyover loop is expected to ease traffic congestion, the controversy has shifted focus to accountability and rule enforcement among elected representatives. **–BMB**

Man kills friend, dies by suicide

A 28-year-old woman was found murdered at her residence in Thirupalya on Wednesday afternoon, in what police suspect to be a case of murder followed by suicide. The deceased, Mandira Mondal, was allegedly killed by Suman Mondal, a family acquaintance and close friend of her estranged husband, Bijon Mondal. The incident came to light when Mandira's parents, who live nearby, heard a commotion and rushed over to find their daughter lying in a pool of blood and the accused hanging from the ceiling.

Mandira and Bijon had moved to Bengaluru from West Bengal around eight years ago in search of work. The couple had separated two years ago, and Mandira had since been living alone with her minor son while working as a daily wage labourer. Her parents stayed close by and often looked after the child.

Preliminary investigations suggest that Suman, who had earlier travelled with Bijon to the Andaman Islands in search of jobs, had recently returned to Bengaluru and visited Mandira while she was alone at home. Her son was at her parents' house during the incident. Police believe a personal dispute may have led to the crime. A case has been registered, and further investigation is ongoing. **–BMB**

Prisoners use UPI apps to carry on extortion in jail

In a shocking revelation, rowdy convicts lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison are allegedly extorting money from individuals outside the jail using Unified Payments Interface (UPI) apps like PhonePe and Google Pay. Despite the installation of mobile jammers, the misuse of mobile phones continues unabated inside the prison. The convicts are reportedly making WhatsApp calls to former inmates who are out on bail, threatening them with dire consequences unless money is transferred to specific UPI IDs. These transactions are then withdrawn by associates outside and the cash is routed back into the prison.

One such case came to light after a man named Arul Kumar lodged a complaint with the Central Crime Branch (CCB), revealing how he was repeatedly threatened to send money to UPI IDs linked to a man named Likhith, who was operating on behalf of convicted rapist Harshit Gangaraju and others, including Nelson alias Babbu, OJ Atiyana Guru, and Shankara. The FIR names all individuals involved. Based on the complaint, the CCB has registered a case and is preparing to take the accused into police custody for further investigation.

Investigators have traced 14 UPI accounts allegedly used by these convicts and have sought transaction details from banks to assess the total amount extorted. The accused, including Harshit, Girish, and Muniraju, are expected to be interrogated after court permission. The CCB also revealed that in another case, Harshit's relative Likhith would withdraw the extorted sums and ensure it reached the jail inmates.

In a related case, Chetan, a convict in the Arun School Murder case, and rowdy-sheeter Shekhar, were also found using UPI-based extortion methods. These developments raise serious concerns about jail security. **BMB**

Digital arrest scam nets ₹1.77cr

An 81-year-old man lost ₹1.77 crore in a shocking cyber fraud case involving a fake "digital arrest." According to a complaint filed on July 23, 2025, the victim received a call on July 5 from a man claiming to be Sandeep Jadhav from Colaba Police Station, Mumbai. The caller falsely alleged that the senior citizen's Aadhaar number was linked to a money laundering case involving Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal.

The fraudsters sent fake arrest warrants via WhatsApp and claimed the victim was under "digital arrest." They convinced him to transfer all his funds "temporarily" to avoid legal trouble. Fearing arrest, the man made five large RTGS transfers between July 9 and 15 from his accounts in Punjab National Bank, ICICI, SBI, and Canara Bank. The ₹1.77 crore was transferred to five accounts in YES Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Federal Bank. Cyber Crime Police have registered a case. **–BMB**

Unattended toolbox triggers metro scare

A forgotten tool box left behind by a Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) employee triggered a brief security scare at the busy KR Puram metro station on Wednesday afternoon. Commuters noticed the unattended bag and promptly alerted metro security, who responded swiftly with metal detectors and flagged the item as suspicious.

The Bengaluru police, bomb disposal squad, and fire services were called in, and the area was quickly cordoned off as part of standard security protocol.

While the investigation was underway, a man arrived at the scene and identified himself as the owner of the bag. He was later confirmed to be Manjunath, an HAL employee who had just returned from a training session in Haryana. He explained that, in a rush to get home, he had left the tool kit intended to be returned to his department behind while managing multiple bags. After verifying his identity, authorities issued him a strict warning. **–BMB**

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IMPORTANT DATES

Activity	Timeline
Online registration including Edit/Modification of Application	01.08.2025 to 21.08.2025
Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges	01.08.2025 to 21.08.2025
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training	September 2025
Online Examination – Preliminary	October, 2025
Result of Online exam – Preliminary	October / November, 2025
Online Examination – Main	November, 2025
Provisional Allotment	March, 2026

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Mumbai
Date: 01.08.2025
DIRECTOR

NTCA urges tiger reserve tag for MM Hills after deaths

After tragic tiger deaths, NTCA report pushes urgent reserve status, improved staff welfare, stronger anti-poaching measures, and enhanced community involvement for MM Hills

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), in its report on the death of five tigers in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (MM Hills WLS) on June 26, has recommended that MM Hills should be notified as a tiger reserve for better protection of wildlife.

The NTCA's recommendation follows a detailed investigation conducted by a special inquiry committee into the deaths of a tigress and her four cubs in the Hoogyam Range of the MM Hills Wildlife Division. The report underscores the ecological significance of the sanctuary, which forms a crucial corridor connecting Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve—linking habitats across Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Despite prior approval from both the NTCA and the State Board of Wildlife, a formal notification to declare MM Hills as a tiger reserve remains pending. The NTCA emphasised that this upgrade would strengthen wildlife protection, ensure better financial support, and help scale up conservation efforts in the region.

The high-level inquiry committee, which conducted site visits and inspections between June 17 and July 2, identified multiple systemic issues contributing to the vulnerability of tigers and other wildlife in the sanctuary. One of the key findings was the lack of adequate patrolling in areas outside existing tiger reserves, leaving crucial corridors exposed to threats such as poaching.

High-level probe stresses new anti-poaching camps, stronger patrols, and better manpower deployment in tiger habitats beyond reserves

The report also shed light on neglected welfare measures for frontline staff, particularly the outsourced anti-poaching watchers. According to the committee, delayed salaries, lack of basic amenities in anti-poaching camps, and insufficient equipment have impacted staff morale and effectiveness.

To address these issues, the committee recommended immediate steps such as setting up new anti-poaching camps and check posts at strategic locations, increasing manpower, and ensuring timely payment of wages. It also proposed enhancements in ration and fuel allowances for contract staff and called for improved infrastructure, including new residential quarters for Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACFs), Range Forest Officers (RFOs), and field staff.

While the Karnataka government has recently granted hardship allowances to frontline staff working in protected areas, the committee believes more needs to be done to recognise their efforts. It has suggested instituting awards for outstanding work in wildlife protection, conflict mitigation, and forest fire management during key wildlife-related events to boost morale and performance.

Wildlife conservationist Giridhar Kulkarni also weighed in on the issue, supporting the NTCA's recommendation to regularise the services of contractual staff. "This is crucial to ensure timely payment of salaries and regular credit of their ESI and PF contributions," he said. Kulkarni further urged the government to revoke the suspension of the RFO and ACF, noting that documents do not indicate their involvement in the salary delays, which had been cited as the reason for disciplinary action.

> **"I welcome the NTCA's recommendation to regularize contractual staff. This is crucial to ensure their timely payment of salaries and regular credit of their ESI and PF contributions**
> – Giridhar Kulkarni, Wildlife conservationist

The committee further stressed the importance of engaging local communities in conservation efforts. It recommended proactive conflict management strategies, regular awareness campaigns involving social and religious leaders, and initiatives to restore and protect the prey base within tiger habitats.

As tiger conservation continues to face growing challenges due to habitat fragmentation and human-wildlife conflict, the NTCA's call for declaring MM Hills a tiger reserve is being viewed as a necessary step to safeguard this vital corridor and its inhabitants.

BBMP launches faceless e-Khata drive

To enhance transparency and curb corruption, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has introduced a faceless e-Khata system, inspired by the Income Tax Department's model to reduce citizen-official contact. Khata applications—both new and updates—will be randomly assigned to officials across BBMP zones, ensuring balanced workload and eliminating local interference or middlemen. The system follows a First In, First Out (FIFO) method, processing applications by submission date. Citizens won't know which official is handling their case, but a fixed timeline ensures resolution. If no action is taken within three days, the application is reassigned and may escalate to a senior team. Software tracking guarantees accountability and efficiency. — BMB

Bengaluru-Belagavi express zooms ahead

PriPrime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the much-awaited Vande Bharat Express between Bengaluru and Belagavi on August 10, fulfilling a long-pending demand of North Karnataka residents. The semi-high-speed train will reduce travel time between the two cities to 8 hours and 30 minutes, offering a faster and more comfortable journey. As per the schedule, the train will depart Belagavi at 5.20 am and reach Bengaluru by 1.50 pm. The return journey will begin at 2:20 pm from Bengaluru and arrive in Belagavi at 10.40 pm. The service promises improved regional connectivity and daily commuter convenience. — BMB

125 PACS face insolvency heat

Out of 6,291 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in Karnataka, 125 are undergoing insolvency proceedings, Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah informed Parliament on Tuesday. Chikkaballapur reported the highest number at 28, followed by Hassan (13) and Belagavi (12). Additionally, 64 PACS have shut down across the state. Despite setbacks, 428 new PACS were registered over the past seven years, with Belagavi accounting for the highest at 187. The National Cooperative Development Corporation disbursed ₹25.56 crore to cooperative societies in Karnataka in the last five years.

A 1,000-tonne warehouse with a processing unit was set up in Ekamba, Bidar, under a pilot foodgrain storage project. The Centre also allocated ₹55.64 crore to computerize PACS, with 2,765 of 5,491 societies integrated into the national e-governance platform. — BMB

Madarsa teachers to undergo Kannada training

In a fresh push to promote Kannada across educational and religious spaces, the Karnataka government has launched a new initiative to train madarsa teachers in the state language. Waqf and Minority Welfare Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan, announcing the move on Wednesday, said that 200 teachers from various madrasas have been selected for a three-month Kannada training programme. The aim is to ensure that students in these institutions also learn Kannada as part of their daily curriculum.

"Kannada is the identity of our state. Every child in Karnataka should be able to read and write in the language. To make that happen, teachers must first learn it," the minister said at a press conference. He further added that this was just the beginning and that the government plans to extend the programme to include maulvis in mosques across the state. "This is a Kannada-speaking state, and it's important that everyone, regardless of background, is equipped to communicate in the local language," he said.

Modi roadshow off B'luru schedule

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned roadshow and public meeting in Bengaluru on August 10 have been cancelled due to time constraints and security concerns. The BJP had earlier conducted a bhoomi puja at Shalini Ground in Jayanagar for the event. However, Modi will still visit the city to inaugurate the Metro Rail extension at Electronic City. Before that, he will arrive at Majestic Railway Station to flag off three new Vande Bharat Express trains from Bengaluru. — BMB

Top private experts enter Karnataka bureaucracy

In a first-of-its-kind move, the Karnataka government is implementing lateral entry to induct 30–45 top private-sector professionals with annual packages between ₹20–₹45 lakh. This initiative aims to bolster the state's industrial ecosystem and attract high-value investments. These professionals will take up roles traditionally held by bureaucrats, marking a strategic shift in governance and decision-making.

As part of the revamped Invest Karnataka Forum (IKF), the government is appointing heads for crucial verticals like Investment Promotion, Market Intelligence & Analytics, and four major industry sectors. The goal is to ensure focused investment growth and sector-specific development. Industry Minister MB Patil said the specialists will identify investment opportunities, offer policy advice, and help drive consistent capital inflows. The application window closed on July 25, and the interview process is underway. Industry veterans have shown strong interest in these high-impact positions. — BMB

B'luru squad feature in Test victory

Rahul, Prasidh, Karun play major role in success

INFOCUS INDIA WIN

Prasidh Krishna, Karun Nair and KL Rahul with a fan at The Oval

The cricket world is in awe of India's sterling performance in snatching victory from the jaws of defeat in the fifth and final cricket Test against England at The Oval in London and square the series 2-2.

It was after 2002 that Karnataka had three players in the Indian Test playing eleven as KL Rahul, Karun Nair and Prasidh Krishna lined up to make the state proud and recall the time when Karnataka legends Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble and Rahul Dravid played together.

The focus before the start of the series in July was on skipper and batsman Shubman Gill, paceman Jasprit Bumrah and wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant. But the ones who laugh in the end laugh the loudest.

And those who did so were opening batsman Yashasvi Jaiswal, paceman Mohammed Siraj and the Karnataka trio of batsman KL Rahul, Karun Nair and paceman Prasidh Krishna. But for their superlative showings, the Test and the series might have been lost.

Rahul opened the innings with Jaiswal but often found himself faced with tough situations. In Jaiswal's company he did put on a lot of runs. But once Jaiswal left, a couple of others followed in quick succession. Yet, Rahul remained unfazed. His ice-cool and calm approach steadied the ship more often than not. With two hundreds and two fifties and 532 runs at 53.20, Rahul was the third highest run-getter behind Gill (754) and England's Joe Root (537). Rahul anchored the team without blemish and his individual stats prove that if any proof is required at all.

In Karun Nair, he found an almost perfect foil in terms of approach if not in the number of runs scored. Nair played in four Tests and scored 205 runs with one fifty. But he managed to remain at the wicket for sufficiently long periods to frustrate England as the situation for India kept improving gradually. His value as a Test batsman in the middle order cried out loud for recognition. And he did earn plaudits from the pundits and the purists apart from the fans.

Prasidh Krishna claimed 14 wickets in just the three Tests and six innings that he played with a best of 4 for 62. More importantly, he claimed some of the prized England scalps at the most crucial times in a Test to swing the game India's way. He did that often and most critically in England's second innings of the series decider. He shattered the stumps of Bethel and then foxed the master of them all Joe Root to edge a catch to wicket-keeper Dhruv Jurel and then removed the dangerous Josh Overton when England were on the cusp of victory.

The performances of Rahul, Karun and Prasidh will go a long way in re-establishing Karnataka's tradition of producing quality cricketers who can excel in the original format of the game. The slam-bang variety that the ODIs and T20Is produce is a far easier 'cup of tea' to consume. But it is the 'hot cup of Test coffee' which is more difficult to drink and digest. **—SS Shreekumar**

HIGH COURT

Smart electric meter case: Breather to KJ George

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday issued an interim order to stay further proceedings before a trial court in a case initiated by BJP leaders against State Energy Minister KJ George and BESCOM officials. The private complaint alleges irregularities in the issuance of tenders for the procurement and installation of smart electric meters in the state.

Justice MI Arun issued notices to the respondents and scheduled the two petitions for hearing on August 20.

In his order, he stated, "There shall be a stay of further proceedings before the trial court, till the next date of hearing."

The petitioners have sought to quash the private complaint dated July 17, 2025, which was registered for offences under sections 314, 316 and 61 of the BNS, 2023, and Sections 13(1)(a) and 13(1)(b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. They also seek to quash the order dated July 23, passed by the court invoking powers under section 175(4) of the BNSS, wherein the court directed the superintendent of police, Lokayukta, to file his report before the next hearing date.

Senior Advocate CV Nagesh, representing the petitioners, argued that the accused, including the minister, are public servants who enjoy protection at two stages: when prosecution is initiated and when cognisance is taken. Under the Prevention of Corruption Act, a public servant benefits from protection under

Section 17A of the Act.

He further stated, "The impugned order cannot be passed at all. A report from the officer superior in rank against whom the allegations is made is required to be called for. No report is called from my superior officer; he (trial court) calls it from the police."

Nagesh added, "Here the trial court has passed an order directing Lokayukta police to submit a report which is not permissible." **—BMB**

News portal appeals against gag order

Spunklane Media Pvt. Ltd., the owner of 'The News Minute' web portal, has appealed to the Karnataka High Court against an ex-parte interim gag order issued by a civil court.

The order restricts media houses and YouTube channels from publishing any 'defamatory content' related to the Dharmasthala burial case.

The company has also filed a plea challenging an order concerning the portal's reporting on the alleged murder of a 17-year-old girl. The petitions are expected to be heard next week. **—BMB**

CLOSERHOME

Auto blast: Bank account seized

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has provisionally attached a bank balance of ₹29,176 belonging to Syed Yasin, the prime accused in the Mangaluru auto rickshaw blast case, as part of its ongoing investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

According to officials, the action follows an ongoing investigation based on a complaint filed by auto driver K Purushottama, after an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated inside his vehicle on November 19, 2022. The chargesheet reveals that the blast was not an isolated act but part of a larger ISIS-backed plot to in-still fear and wage war against the Government of India. The plan reportedly involved planting the bomb at the Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy Temple, but it had exploded in the autorickshaw as the bomb timer was set as 09 seconds instead of 90 minutes.

Investigations uncovered that an ISIS handler, known by the alias 'Colonel', provided bomb-making training through encrypted platforms like Wickr and Telegram to main accused Mohammad Shariq alias Premraj and others. Funds were arranged through crypto transactions, routed via fraudulently opened mule accounts in FINO Payments Bank. These cryptocurrencies were partially encashed by Syed Yasin and Shariq through contacts, often for a commission. Officials said ₹2.86 lakh was deposited in these mule accounts. **—BMB**

Viral post on footpaths, encroachments strikes a chord

A post by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon Limited on X has gone viral, striking a chord with thousands of Bengalureans fed up with the state of the city's footpaths. The video she shared, highlighting how sidewalks have been overtaken by illegal stalls, roadside vendors, and parked vehicles, garnered over 1,000 likes and more than 55,000 views, setting off a storm of public outrage.

"@OfficialBMRCL, are you aware or even bothered about commuters' plight?" she asked in the post, tagging Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and civic activist RK Misra. Her remarks, aimed at the ongoing encroachment and neglect of public walkways, triggered a flood of responses from citizens echoing her frustration.

Users didn't hold back. "Everyone who sets up shop on footpaths pays the local guardians to keep their business running," one user wrote, accusing officials of turning a blind eye in exchange for regular collections. Another fumed, "Footpaths are leased out on a long-term basis by law enforcement agencies, crores are collected through hafta, which is why pedestrians are left with no space."

The thread quickly turned into a collective expression of urban despair. Many pointed out how footpaths across Bengaluru are no longer accessible, with every inch taken up by encroachments or illegal parking. **—BMB**

3 arrested for arson in Halasuru

Three men have been arrested for setting fire to multiple vehicles and a shopfront in Halasuru during the early hours of July 28.

According to the complaint filed by Amit Kumar, the accused set fire to 10 bikes and 7 cycles parked on B No. 4th Street by pouring petrol on them and fleeing the scene.

In a related incident, a car, a community van, was partially burnt near a vegetable shop owned by Alagesh. Acting swiftly, Halasuru Police traced and arrested the accused on the same day. The arrested individuals have been identified as Maksad Ahmed Bin Rehmat Ullakhan (26), from Pillanna Garden, Izar Pasha (24), from Bharati City, Sampigehalli Road, Hamit Tabrez Bin Qasim Ali (26), from Govindpur.

Investigations revealed that the accused previously lived in Halasuru before moving to DJ Halli.

While residing in Halasuru, Maksad Ahmed, who worked as a vegetable vendor in the area, was assaulted by two local men, Fahad and Sarfuddin, who are currently lodged in jail in connection with a murder case. Holding a grudge over the past assault, Maksad and his associates allegedly returned to the area to make their presence known and send a message to the jailed individuals. **—BMB**

YouTubers attacked near Dharmasthala, 4 hospitalised

Four men, representing three YouTube channels, including a cameraman, were attacked by a large mob near Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada district on Wednesday evening, when they were interviewing a person, amid an ongoing probe by SIT into the alleged mass burial case, police said.

The incident occurred close to the residence of a college-goer, who was raped and found dead in 2012 in Dharmasthala town. Ajay Anchan, Abhishek, Vijay and a cameraman, were interviewing Rajat of "Bigg Boss Kannada" when they were assaulted by an estimated 50 to 60 individuals near Pangal Cross here. They also damaged the camera equipment. All four were rushed to Benaka Hospital in Ujire. One of them is reported to be in critical condition, police said. Police have launched an investigation and no arrests have been reported yet. Following the incident at Pangal Cross, two groups started pelting each other with stones. The police resorted to mild lathi charge to disperse the mob. **PTI**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Venugopal N S, S/o Narayanrao Savadatti, residing at No. 2748, 7th Main, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore – 560078, do hereby declare that I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as **Venugopal N S**. All documents bearing the names **Venugopal Narayanrao Savadatti** or **Venugopal N Savadatti** refer to the same person—myself. I have executed an affidavit dated 4th Aug 2025 to this effect. Sd/– Venugopal N S

I Rekha Jain W/O Sunil S R/o Anantha Paradise 538,47/5, 32ndCCross Jayanagar 4th Blk ,Bangalore-11 have changed my name to Rekha Suneel Gadiya vide affidavit dt:06/08/2025 before notary BG Shriram Blore

I SYED SAB S/o Syed Abbas R/o No 26 3rd Cross New Pension Lane J J R Nagar Bangalore 560018 have changed my name to SYED RAHAMAN for all Purposes

I, SRIVIDHYA SATISH Residing at 48, C2, Rajasri Mansions, 13th B Cross, NS Palya BTM Layout, Bangalore – 560076, have changed my name to SREE VIDHYA SATISH vide affidavit dated 07/05/2025 sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, YESHAS T, Residing at 347 11th Main Rd, Bank Colony Srinivasanagar, Banashankari Bangalore - 560050 have changed my name to BHARATH SURYA RAJ T, vide affidavit dated 23/07/2025 sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Jeetendra N C R/o #84,1st floor, 3rd cross, Raghavendra swamy Lyt, Chikkabanavara, Bangaluru 560090 have changed my name to Jithendra Naranapura Chandrappa (Jithendra N C) Affidavit Dt.18/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Sohum Rastogi S/O, Sandeep Rastogi R/o Zolo Alpine, Room No- 309, And Address: muthurayya Swamy Layout, Hulimavu, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560076. have changed my name to Soham Rastogi.

I, Phumla Tricia Kumar w/o Sarvesh Kumar R/o B3-A406, Wonderwall, Phase III, Nefer, Sompura Gate, Sarjapura, Bengaluru 562125 have changed my name to Khadija Zaynab Kumar Affidavit Dt.06/08/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Phumla Tricia Kumar w/o Sarvesh Kumar R/o B3-A406, Wonderwall, Phase III, Nefer, Sompura Gate, Sarjapura, Bengaluru 562125 have changed my name to Khadija Zaynab Kumar Affidavit Dt.06/08/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Surbhi Kapoor w/o Arihant Tater R/o E1504, Purva Seasons, Kaggadasapura main road, CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru 560093 have changed my name to Surbhi Kapoor Tater Affidavit Dt.06/08/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Sudha Konigere Sommegowda w/o Harish Thippenahalli Ramamurthy R/o Thippenahalli, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru 560073 have changed my name to Sudha for all purposes.

I, Leenita Leonard C D/o Joseph Albert R/o No 31, Promnade Road, Next To Punjab National Bank, Frazer Town, B'luru 560005 have changed my name to Leenita Joseph Albert for all purposes.

I, Mukthiyar Ali Babajan Ali S/o Babajan Ali R/o 172/A,1st Cross, Jabbar Block Near vayalikaval Police station B'lore-560003 have changed my name to Mukthiyar Ali.

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Culprits manage to flee and hide away gold

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

store owner discovered a shortfall of 1.5 kg of gold during a routine stock check on July 30. CCTV footage allegedly revealed three staff members, employed over the past two years, discreetly pocketing ornaments during working hours. The complainant stated that the theft appeared to have been carried out gradually, over weeks, without detection. Police are currently verifying the footage and financial records, but the accused employees are said to be absconding.

In the second case, reported the following day, a gold ornament manufacturer filed a complaint alleging that a businessman, who had been coordinating with him for three months, fraudulently took delivery of 1.5 kg of ornaments under the pretext of verifying purity and exchanging them for 999-grade gold bars. The ornaments were delivered by staff to a commercial location on July 14. However, the accused allegedly delayed the promised exchange and later became unreachable, with his phone switched off and no ornaments or gold bars returned.

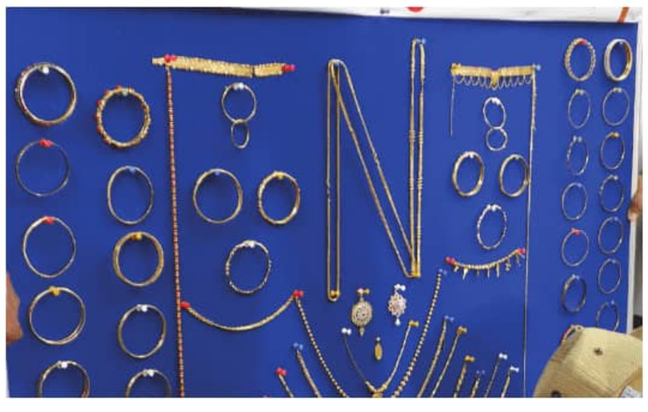
In both instances, it wasn't a break-in or an outsider that led to the loss, but individuals who were trusted and well-known to the victims, highlighting a deeper issue of insider theft, or what business owners now refer to as "betrayal".

Preventive steps fail

Several traders have expressed concern that such incidents are no longer rare. "It's no longer about armed robbery or burglary. It's those who know your system, your timing, and your blind spots, that's the new threat," said a trader calling for stricter vetting, surveillance upgrades, and awareness within the trade community.

Despite several complaints and preventive measures, theft cases continue to plague traders in areas under the Halasuru Gate police station limits, including Chickpet and Avenue Road. Even in shops where owners maintain proper documentation of workers, like address and ID proofs and have installed CCTV cameras as advised by the police, incidents of theft and burglary persist. Traders are growing increasingly anxious as the recovery rate remains low, and in many cases, culprits manage to flee, dispose of the stolen goods elsewhere, or hide them, making it difficult to trace.

TA Sharavana, Member of the Legislative Council and President of the Karnataka Jewellery Shop Association, voiced the concerns of the community, saying, "Traders are following every protocol the police recommend, keeping identity records, installing CCTV, having insurance etc, but when crimes occur, the burden still falls on the traders. The police demand footage and documents, but we see very few recoveries. These incidents are happening too frequently, and our community is under constant threat."



Sequel update 'Extraction 3' is surely in works, confirmed actor Chris Hemsworth. In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Hemsworth opened up about his upcoming projects, including the third installment of Extraction and Limitless: Live Better Now

BangaloreMirror | 9
Thursday, August 7, 2025
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

In the spotlight

A look at Mrunal's journey after video creates buzz online

Currently in the spotlight for her role in Son of Sardaar 2 and a rumoured romance with South superstar Dhanush, Mrunal's journey is as interesting off screen as it is on. From turning down a major Aamir Khan film to making bold real estate moves and owning a Rs 33 crore fortune, the actress has steadily carved her own path in the entertainment world.

Mrunal and Dhanush are quickly becoming the latest rumoured couple to spark buzz in the industry. Speculation about their alleged romance began after a video from Mrunal's recent birthday celebration surfaced online, showing the Raanjhanaa actor holding her hand.

Adding fuel to the fire, Dhanush was seen attending the premiere of her latest film Son of Sardaar 2, while Mrunal showed up at the wrap party of his upcoming project Tere Ishq Main.

Now, a report in News18 Showsha has confirmed that the two are indeed dating, although they have no plans to make their relationship public just yet.

> "Bold real estate moves and smart film choices have made actor worth ₹33 cr

During her early days in the film industry, Mrunal Thakur auditioned for Aamir Khan's Thugs of Hindostan. In an interview with Bollywood Hungama, the Sita Ramam actress revealed that the audition process went "lovely," and she even did a look test with Aamir for the Yash Raj Films-backed project. However, the role ultimately went to Fatima Sana Shaikh. Mrunal later chose to take on Love Sonia instead—a film that went on to earn her critical acclaim.

— ETimes

All about respect

Priyanka Chopra is making headlines again, not for a red carpet appearance or film announcement, but for a striking note she shared on Instagram Stories. Known for occasionally dropping thought-provoking or cryptic messages on her social media, the

actress's latest post took a firm stand on boundaries and self respect. The quote she shared read, "I am the nicest, most understanding person, but disrespect me and you will understand why I only have three friends." She added a playful caption, "Lol. Anyone else relate?"—a message that seems personal yet widely relatable. Just a few days earlier, she posted another note: "Better a B... than a Bitchari," paired with what appeared to be stylized artwork featuring legendary actress Rekha in golden headgear. Whether or not these posts are directed at someone specific, they've certainly sparked speculation among her fans online.

While Priyanka didn't name names, the internet is buzzing with questions. Has someone in her circle overstepped? Is this a reflection on setting limits? One thing's for sure that Priyanka's tone is clear: she values respect and isn't afraid to cut ties when it's lost.

Meanwhile, Priyanka is currently in Hyderabad filming her next major project—SS Rajamouli's 'SSMB 29' with Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj.

—ETimes

Case registered against Shwetha Menon for 'obscene content'

Police in Kerala's Kochi have registered a case against popular Malayalam actress Shwetha Menon, following a complaint that she allegedly acted in obscene content and profited from it.

The complaint was filed by social activist Martin Menachery, and the case has been filed under Section 67(A) of the IT Act and provisions of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act.

The complaint cites scenes from several Malayalam films in which Menon acted, including "Paleri Manikyam", "Rathinirvedam", and "Kalimannu" — the latter being a film directed by Blessy that featured real footage of the actress giving birth.

A condom advertisement featuring the actress has also been included in the list of allegedly objectionable material.

Despite the serious allegations, all the works mentioned by the complainant were certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and released to the public through mainstream platforms.

Many of these films are still accessible in the public domain. The complaint alleges that scenes from these films are being shared widely on social media and adult websites, which, according to the petitioner, amounts to indecent representation and misuse of digital platforms.

— IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Movie with a message

Geetha Priya, who plays the lead in Thayavva, is all set to prove her acting skills by playing the lead in one more movie – Aparichithe. Former Deputy Chief Minister and Malleswaram MLA Dr CN Ashwath Narayan unveiled the poster of the movie.

Thanking Dr Ashwath Narayan, Geetha Priya said that she likes to act in message-oriented movies. "I play the role of a teacher in the movie that is based on a real incident," said Geetha Priya.

Aparichithe is directed by Vishwanath, his second as director after Hanumanthappana Eradu Ekare Jaaga that will release shortly. "Aparichithe features Sindhu Lokanath, veteran actor Srinath and his son Rohith. The movie is a thriller," Vishwanath said. Suresh Kumar, Geetha Priya's husband, said he was very happy that his wife is acting in a message-oriented movie. Veteran actor Srinath said Aparichitha is the first movie for him after the pandemic. "My son and I are acting in a movie after 40 years," he said.

How to tame a wolf

Loose Mada is a memorable character in the film Duniya, a box-office hit in 1984. Now, a film titled Loose Mada is in the making and its muhurat function was held at Bande Mahakali Temple recently. Yogesh's father TP Siddaraju sounded the clap board for the first scene while producer Dharmendra switched on the camera.

"I am from Mangaluru and a contractor by profession. My friends advised me to bankroll this movie. The script is interesting. I am a hard-core fan of Yogesh. I am happy to bankroll the movie in which my favourite actor plays the lead. I thank all the guests who graced the muhurat function," said the producer.

Loose Mada is director Ranjit Kumar Gowda's third film. "The movie has a tagline - The Wolf. It is not easy to tame a wolf. The hero's character in the movie is wolf-like. The movie is set to go on floors on August 25. Yogesh plays a different character in the movie. Kishore, Achyuth Kumar, Gopal Krishna Deshpande, and Adi Lokesh are playing key characters," said Gowda.

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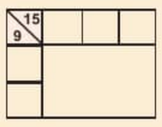
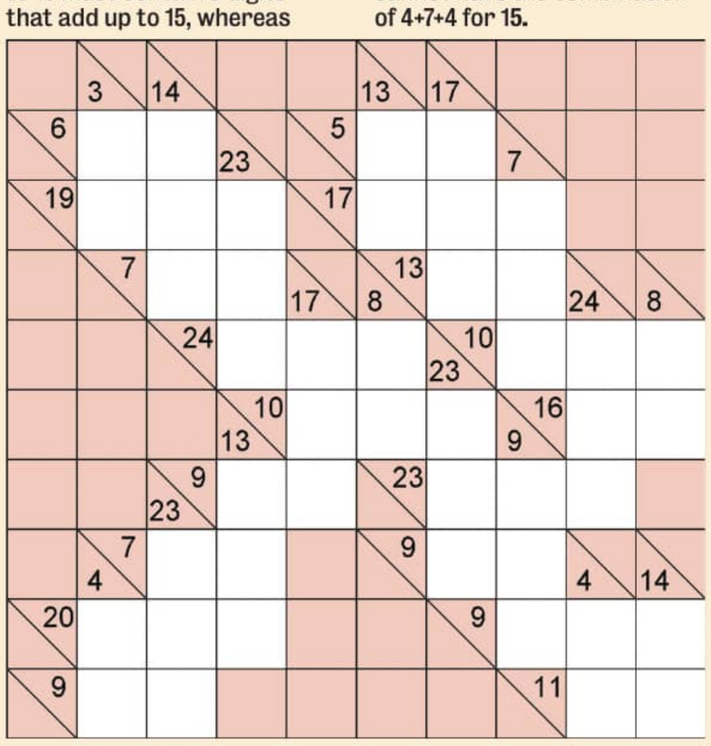
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

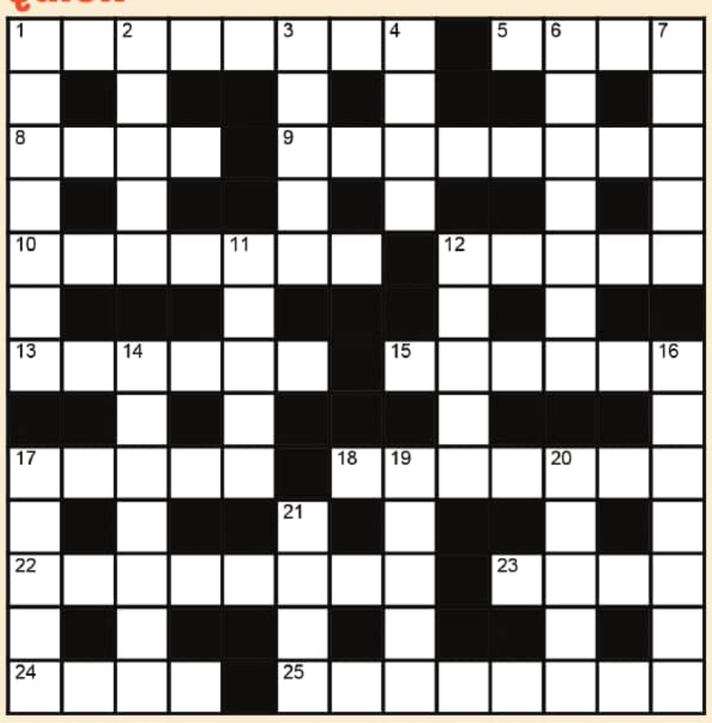
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Rained in drops or mildly (8)
5 You will find the remnants of his fort in the City Market area (4)
8 Neat (4)
9 Make-up (informal) (3,5)
10 Fitting, adjunct or part (7)
12 An organic compound–"Dime I" change? (5)
13 Leguminous plant (6)
15 Boost (6)
17 Arenaceous (5)
18 Plotter (7)
22 Charm (8)
23 In a tizzy (4)
24 Cuts off or severs (4)
25 Able to count (8)

DOWN

1 Willing to obey (7)
2 Book reference (5)
3 Further down (5)
4 Mend socks (4)
6 Inaugural or introductory (7)
7 Set loose (5)
11 Oneness (5)
12 Of Celtic descent? (5)
14 Continuous or ceaseless (7)
16 A dugout canoe–"i.e. group" anagram? (7)
17 Magical incantation (5)
19 Dairy product (5)
20 Molten rock (5)
21 __ __ even keel : cruising serenely? (2,2)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS W

IO XN MNS GSSAGQS IPGS IO IGMS, LRS IPGS IO GAO.

Linemaro

You look pretty when you frown

Mindchow

The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict

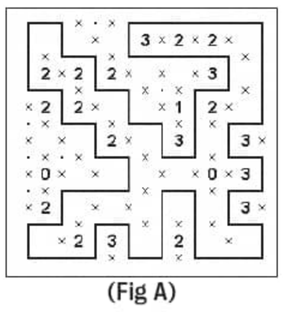
Joke of the day

Love is a matter of chemistry; sex is a matter of physics

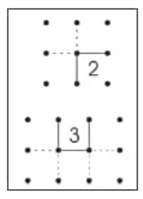
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

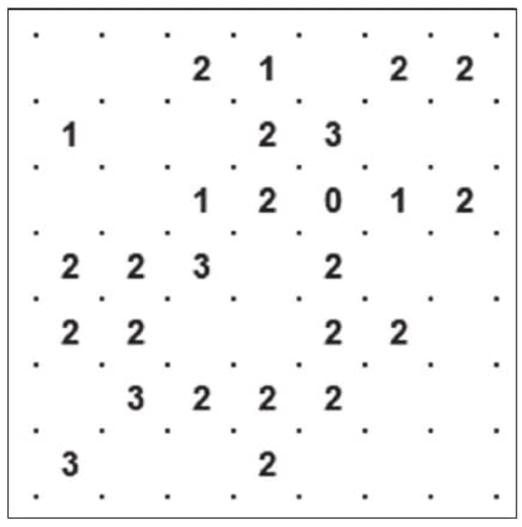


(Fig B) Not Allowed

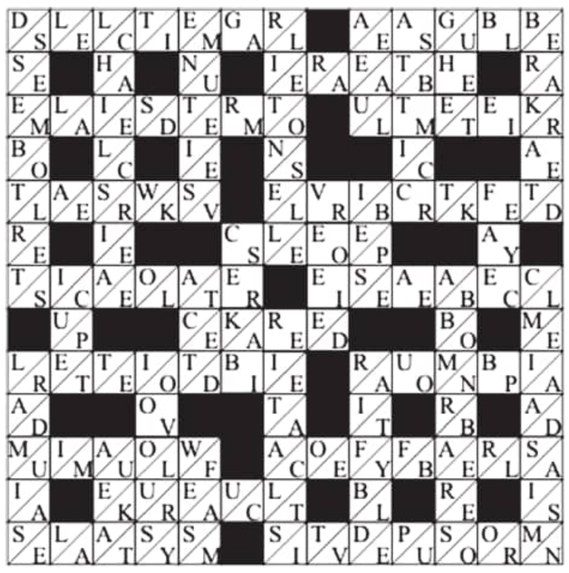
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



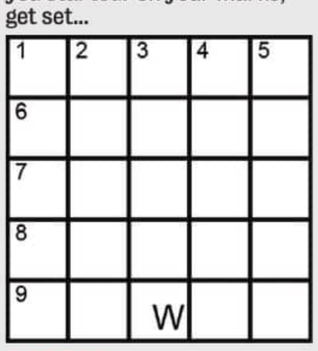
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

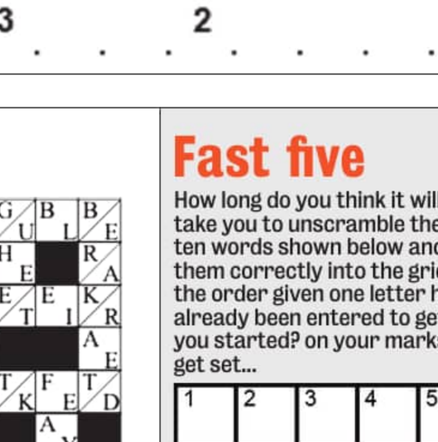
1 Or ape; 6 Rend I; 7 In rid; 8 Touts; 9 Y town

DOWN

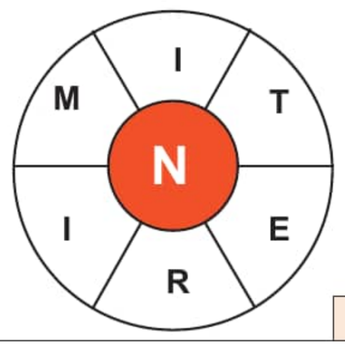
1 I dost; 2 To Pin; 3 Owned; 4 UN err; 5 Ray it

Mensapuzzle

Which two numbers are the odd ones out in these ovals?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4	2	8		3	9	6	
			4		5			
	6						8	
		5	9		1	6		
7	1						5	8
		4	3		7	2		
	2						1	
			5		4			
	5	1	6		2	7	3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 17

1 4 4 8

Medium

= 18

2 7 7 9

Hard

= 2

2 6 7 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Counter top is longer. 2. Nose is different. 3. Book is thicker. 4. Sleeve is shorter. 5. Cake on fork is missing. 6. Bottle is moved.

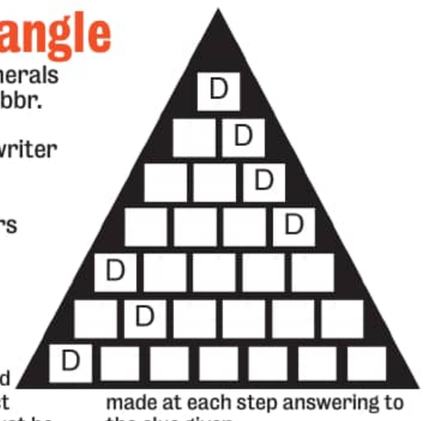
Riddler

If you take the letters found in the word VALENTINES, using the clues below, can you figure out the words that can be made?

1. A number between 8 and 10
2. A person owned by another person
3. An indigenous person
4. To express anger, or a heating duct opening
5. A person who stands watch and/or is watching

Alpha triangle

1 500 in roman numerals
2 Advertisement, abbr.
3 Furthermore
4 Atlas Shrugged, writer
5 Mends socks
6 Bedecks
7 Mythical monsters

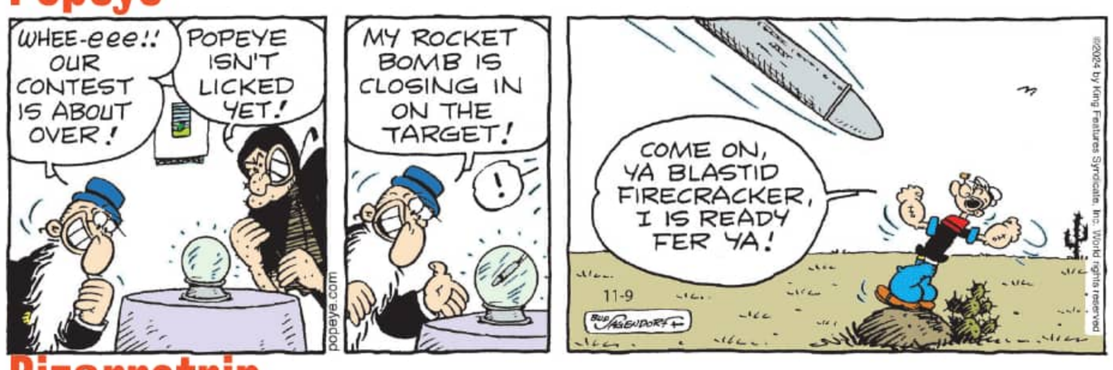


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


WHEE-eee!! OUR CONTEST IS ABOUT OVER!
POPEYE ISN'T LICKED YET!
MY ROCKET BOMB IS CLOSING IN ON THE TARGET!
COME ON, YA BLASTID FIRECRACKER, I IS READY FER YA!
11-9
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popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Unfortunately, the divorce was so amicable, I didn't get any new stand-up comedy material.
Wayno & Piraro 5-1-25
BIZARRO.COM ©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

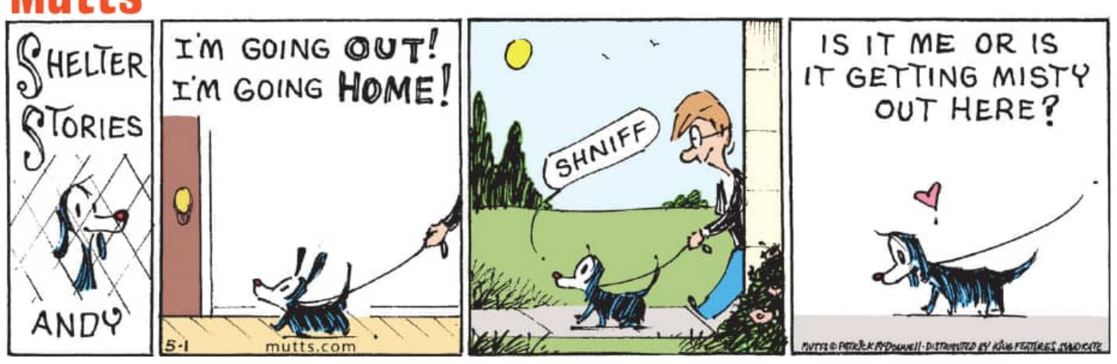
Hart of the city

AFTER THAT STUDENT STORMED OUT, WE KNEW SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE. I HAD SEEN ANOTHER SCHOOL IMPLEMENT A PHONE RACK WHERE STUDENTS PUT THEIR PHONES WHEN THEY GOT TO CLASS.
MS. WARDELL SCHOOL OFFICE ADMIN
STUDENTS THEN TOOK THEIR PHONES BACK AFTER CLASS WAS OVER. THAT WAY, STUDENTS WEREN'T FORCED TO SELF-REGULATE, AND TEACHERS DIDN'T HAVE TO HOLD ON TO THEIR PROPERTY.
THE RACKS WERE INSTALLED THE FOLLOWING WEEK. THE STUDENTS WERE OUTRAGED!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

HEY, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR BOOK TITLES, I'VE GOT ONE...
'MURDER ON THE BOOK TOUR!
OR HOW ABOUT 'MURDER AT THE AIRPORT BOOK KIOSK'?
OR 'MURDER AT THE BOOK CONVENTION'?
HOW ABOUT 'MURDER BY BOOK CRITIC'?
OR... 'MURDER ON THE ZOOM PANEL'?
'MURDER BY TRADE'!
OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL
5-1
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts


SHELTER STORIES
ANDY
I'M GOING OUT! I'M GOING HOME!
5-1
mutts.com
SHNIFF
IS IT ME OR IS IT GETTING MISTY OUT HERE?
MUTTS © PETER J. KAPLANIS II · DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the Moon's blessings may ease work-related stress. Your income may start generating profits, and you could be inclined toward long-term investments. An overseas opportunity may arise, bringing future financial gains. Singles might meet their soulmate. Students may receive encouraging academic news.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
With the positive Moon on your side, you're likely to perform well professionally. You can easily implement business plans with support from your team. Intellectual and financial investments may begin yielding returns, boosting your confidence. Using your wisdom strategically may bring further gains.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, spiritual energy surrounds you, bringing a sense of peace. You're inclined toward religious or spiritual activities and may explore occult sciences. While your mindset is positive, avoid sharing your inner thoughts with those who may not understand you—misunderstandings or conspiracies could arise.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel low on energy and patience today. To seek peace, you might be drawn toward spirituality or the occult. Trust your intuition before making major decisions. Meditation and mantra chanting can help you focus and deepen your understanding of a subject.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
The Moon's blessings may enhance your inner strength. New opportunities in work or business are likely, bringing financial gains in the near future. Couples may receive good news related to childbirth. For lovebirds, open communication is key to maintaining harmony in the relationship.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today brings relief and clarity. Your efforts at work may be appreciated by superiors, possibly leading to promotions or increased responsibility. Stuck payments might get released, boosting your savings. Legal matters may take a positive turn, and disputes with siblings could finally be resolved.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Good news may arrive regarding your job or career. You might consider higher education to advance professionally. You may also engage in motivational or public events. Singles could hear positive news about marriage, while couples may celebrate joyful developments related to children.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You might consider relocating, but it's wise to postpone such decisions for now. Avoid making business investments today. By evening, things may start to improve. Guidance from an elder can help you regain control of a difficult situation.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Patience and focus may define your day. Meditation could enhance your concentration, helping you complete projects more efficiently. Support from subordinates may allow for timely completion. Short work-related travel is possible, and you may meet an influential person who could benefit your business.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may spend on art or home décor, enhancing your social status. Implementing new ideas into the family business could yield promising results. Family gatherings or social events might keep you occupied today.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A positive and energetic day awaits you. You'll likely enjoy your work and feel good health-wise. However, try to avoid being too blunt or argumentative, especially over trivial matters, to maintain family harmony. Job seekers may find a good opportunity. Couples should steer clear of unnecessary disputes.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
The Moon's energy may not be in your favor today. Feelings of dissatisfaction and impatience may affect your productivity. Tasks might feel overwhelming, and responsibilities may weigh heavily. It's best to take things slowly and avoid setting high expectations for the day.

KIDZONE

Amrutha, Bengaluru

Anish, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
9(3)-1x1
27-1
26

BULL'S EYE
inert, INTERIM, mien, mine, miner, mint, mint, rein, rent, tine, tiner

STRIKE OUT

D	E	C	I	M	A	L		E	A	G	L	E		
E	H		U		I	R	A	T	E		R			
M	A	E	S	T	R	O		U	T	T	E	R		
O		L		E		N			I			E		
T	A	S	K	S		E	V	I	C	T	E	D		
E		E		C	L	O	P			Y				
S	C	A	L	A	R		I	S	A	B	E	L		
	U			C	A	R	D			O		E		
L	E	T	I	T	B	E		R	U	M	B	A		
A		V		A		I		B			D			
M	I	A	O	W		C	O	F	F	E	R	S		
A		K	R	A	U	T		L		R		I		
S	L	A	Y	S		S	T	E	P	S	O	N		

FAST FIVE

O	P	E	R	A
D	I	N	E	R
I	N	D	U	T
S	T	O	U	T
T	O	W	N	Y

RIDDLER
1. Nine,
2. Slave,
3. Native,
4. Vent &
5. Sentinel

QUICK
1. Nine,
2. Slave,
3. Native,
4. Vent &
5. Sentinel

MENSA PUZZLE
A:18, B:72. In the first oval, all numbers are divisible by 8, and in the second, they are all divisible by 7.

QUOTE UNCODE
We do not attract what we want, but what we are.

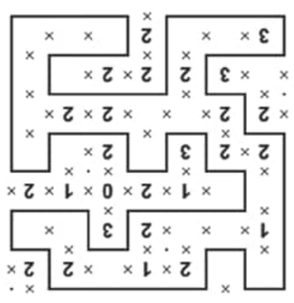
SUDOKU

1	4	2	8	7	3	9	6	5
3	9	8	4	6	5	1	7	2
5	6	7	1	2	9	4	8	3
2	3	5	9	8	1	6	4	7
7	1	9	2	4	6	3	5	8
6	8	4	3	5	7	2	9	1
4	2	6	7	3	8	5	1	9
9	7	3	5	1	4	8	2	6
8	5	1	6	9	2	7	3	4

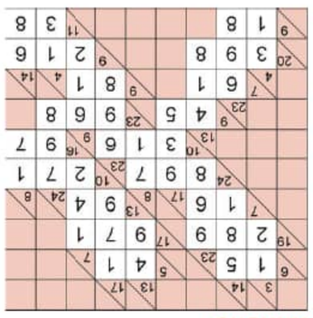
ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Ad, And, Rand, Darns, Adorns, Dragons.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 8 + 1 + 4 = 17
Medium
2 x 9 + 7 - 7 = 18
Hard
2 + 6 - 7 x 2 = 2

LOOP



KAKURO



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